

## Robbins Butte Youth Dove Hunt AZSFWC Grant Completion Report

75 youth and their parents were present for the Robbins Butte Youth Dove hunt on Saturday , September 3, 2016. Many were new to dove hunting and for some this was their first hunt of any kind.

Organizations involved in the hunt were:

- Youth Outdoors Unlimited
- Arizona Outdoor Sports
- Arizona State Chapter, NWTF
- Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation
- Arizona Game and Fish Department



Participants showed up at Robbins Butte Wildlife area at 4:00 a.m. for registrations and check in. At 4:45 participants and their parent/guardians were welcomed to the hunt and introduced to the sponsors of the event. Ground rules were explained and a safety briefing was conducted.



Participants loaded on the hay wagons and transported to the fields where the hunt would occur. When the signal was sent that the line was "hot", the lead starting flying. Mentors and coaches from Arizona Outdoor Sports, AZ NWTF, and Y.O.U. encouraged, instructed, and coached the participants as the doves zigged and zagged in front of them.





Upon their return to the administrative area, the hunters presented their birds to AZGFD personnel that aged and sexed the birds. Mentors demonstrated how to clean birds and then the participants cleaned their own.



Participants and parents were provided the opportunity to sample doves cooked 5 different ways. Those that chose to were taught how to cook their own doves. Many that were going to give their doves away decided to keep them after the tasting and cooking demonstration.

Lunch and snacks were served to all participants, parents, and mentors.

Total expenses for the event are approximately \$2700. AZSFWC provided a \$1000 grant through NWTF to cover part of those expenses. The remainder was covered by Y.O.U, NWTF, and AOS. The NWTF/AZSFWC banner was prominently displayed at the event.

We greatly appreciate the grant provided by AZSFWC as we continue to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters.

Steve Sams, President  
Arizona State Chapter, NWTF